

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A personal smart pointer device capable of interfacing with a computer device for enabling a user to interface with an application executing on said computer device, said pointer device comprising:

a memory storage device for enabling storage of personalized user preferences relating to user customized settings of said application executing on a first computing device;

^{F1 (14) (18)}
a mechanism for communicating said personalized user preferences from said first computing device to said memory storage device for storage therein when said pointer device is interfaced with said first computing device,

^{(515) (210)}
a mechanism for recognizing a like application being executed on said second computing device when said pointer device is interfaced with a second computing device;

said mechanism for communicating further automatically initiating transfer of said personalized user preferences from said memory storage device to a same user application executing on a second computing device for altering said user application in accordance with said user customized application settings, wherein said pointer device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of a first computer device to subsequent personalized use of same applications executing on second computing devices.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said second computing device retains original user application preferences currently existing in said second computing device prior to altering said user application with said user customized application settings, and restores said original user application preferences for said user application after disconnecting said pointer device from said second device.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said customized settings of user applications are stored in associated preference files in said memory storage device.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said communication mechanism implements a universal serial bus (USB) communications protocol.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said communication mechanism transfers signals including said personalized user preferences according to a wireless communications protocol.

Claim 8 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said wireless communications protocol includes a BlueTooth radio frequency (RF) communications standard.

Claim 9 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said wireless communications protocol includes an IEEE 802.11 communications standard.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a touch-sensitive panel interface responsive to user entry comprising one or more graffiti characters each representing an application to be launched in said personal smart pointer device.

Claim 11 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising password protection mechanism for enabling user to use said pointer device.

Claim 12-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a first and second device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

Claim 15 (Canceled):

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for customizing software applications in computing devices via a ~~mouse~~ smart personal pointer device, said method comprising:

a) receiving personalized user preferences relating to customized settings of a user application capable of executing in a first computing device;

b) storing said personalized user preferences in a memory storage device provided in said mouse device;

c) subsequently interfacing said smart personal pointer device with a second computing device and recognizing a like user application being executed on said second computing device;

[[c)]] d) subsequently automatically transferring said stored personalized user preferences from said smart personal pointer device to [[a)]] said like user application capable of executing in a second computing device; and,

[[d)]] e) altering said like user application executing in said second computing device in accordance with said customized application settings, wherein said mouse smart personal pointer device is transportable for transferring user customized application settings of many user applications of first computing devices to facilitate use of like applications in second computing devices.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein prior to step d), the step of retaining original user application preferences currently existing in said second computing device.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein after use of said like application on said second device by said user, the step of: restoring said original

user application preferences for said like application on said second computing device after disconnecting said ~~mouse~~ smart personal pointer device from said second computing device.

Claim 19 (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said receiving step a) and transferring step d) is accomplished in accordance with a wireless communications protocol.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a first and second computing device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

Claim 21 (Canceled):

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for customizing software applications executing in computing devices, said method steps including the steps of:

a) receiving personalized user preferences relating to customized settings of a user application capable of executing in a first computing device;

b) storing said personalized user preferences in a memory storage device provided in a ~~mouse~~ smart personal pointer device;

c) subsequently interfacing said smart personal pointer device with a second computing device and recognizing a like user application being executed on said second computing device;

[[c]]] ~~d) subsequently~~ automatically transferring said stored personalized user preferences from said smart personal pointer device to a like user application capable of executing in a second computing device; and,

[[d]]] e) altering said like user application executing in said second computing device in accordance with said customized application settings, wherein said ~~mouse~~ smart personal pointer device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computing devices to facilitate use of like applications in second computing devices.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein prior to step d), the step of retaining original user application preferences currently existing in said second computing device.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 23, wherein after use of said like application on said second computing device by said user, the step of: restoring said original user application preferences for said like application on said second computing device after disconnecting said ~~mouse~~ smart personal pointer device from said second computing device.

Claim 25 (Original): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said receiving step a) and transferring step d) is accomplished in accordance with a wireless communications protocol.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein a first and second computing device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

Claim 27 (Canceled):